

VOLUNTEER NEWS



OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE AMAZING!

In October we had more than 750 volunteers:

- Working in Parks doing raking, mulching, tree trimming, cleanup and other projects
- Helping out at Recreation Centers with seasonal events, cleaning, clerical work, programs for all ages, and much more!
- Coaching soccer, flag football, Challenger Flag Football and other sports
- Making several BIG events as FUN as they could be this month!!

Volunteers came from businesses, schools, colleges, universities, Scout groups, faith-based groups...and many neighbors just wanting to help out. These AMAZING volunteers donated more than 4100 hours of their VALUABLE time! Valued at \$24.14 per hour (National average for 2016, listed on IndependentSector.org), the work of these Volunteers have added approximately \$100,000 in value to our Department in October alone!

*We can't say it enough: **THANK YOU!***





LOCATION: SHAMROCK SENIOR CENTER

- 3200 Shamrock Drive, 28215

****THIS IS AN ONGOING OPPORTUNITY!***

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 2 to 3 hours per week

TIME VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Varies, set schedule with Senior Center staff and patrons

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 4 to 5

Volunteers are needed to help with:

Assisting refugees working on English as a Second Language (ESL) to help them earn their citizenship.

Volunteers must be at least 18 years old for this ongoing program, and must join the Volunteer Program.

Please contact Volunteer Services to register as a volunteer:

VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov



CALLING ALL COACHES!

Youth Basketball and Cheerleading seasons are here! To volunteer as a coach, you must join our Volunteer Program - if you would like to join please contact Volunteer Services at: VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov

As a Coach, you will need to be available for both Practices and Games. Most of the practices are during the week and the games are usually on Saturday. To check out where our centers are located go to

www.parkandrec.com.

****If you already know which sport, center, and/or age group you want to Coach – or if you have already contacted staff at your preferred Center – please make sure to list this information on your application.***

MORE COACH INFORMATION...

Challenger Basketball is an adaptive sport program offered by Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation's Therapeutic Recreation Section. This basketball program is designed for youth and teens with disabilities. The season runs from January 8 through February 26. To help with this awesome adaptive sport program, please contact Volunteer Services at: VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov

****You must be at least 18 years old to help with Adaptive Sports or other TR programs!****



VOLUNTEER ENROLLMENT TIPS

We LOVE our Volunteers, and we want to make it EASY for you to come and help your community! Here are a few tips for you...THANK YOU for taking the time to support YOUR Park & Recreation Department!

YOU DO **NOT** NEED TO REGISTER/JOIN THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

- For one-day events or projects
- For helping with a program ONE time (Example: chaperoning ONE field trip for an after-school program)

YOU **MUST** REGISTER/JOIN THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

- To be a Coach for any sport
- To assist with an ongoing program on a regular basis (Example: tutoring once a week; teaching ESL)

Please contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov if you are not sure whether or not you need to enroll for a volunteer project, event or program.

PROJECTS FOR GROUPS!

Our Group Project season is winding down for this year...but we do have just a few more dates available.
Number of Volunteers needed: 10 or more per project.

➤ **Soil Enrichment at Latta Park:**

LOCATION: Latta Park in Dilworth

- 601 East Park Avenue, 28203

DATE OF EVENT: Thursday, DECEMBER 7

TIME: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM



Volunteers will help to spread leaf mulch on garden beds throughout the park.

PLEASE CONTACT VOLUNTEER SERVICES at VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov to help out!

**Volunteers must be at least age 12 for park projects; volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult over age 21.*

Watch for new projects in the Spring!

MONTHLY THERAPEUTIC RECREATION DANCE!

LOCATION: MARION DIEHL REC. CENTER

- 2219 Tyvola Road, 28210

DATE OF EVENT: 3RD FRIDAY EACH MONTH

- November 17 – ***Hoedown Throwdown***
- December 15 – ***Ugly Sweater Party***

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 5:00PM TO 9:30PM

TIME OF EVENT: 6:00PM – 9:00PM

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 3 TO 10



The TR Dance is the place to be on the 3rd Friday of each month! Teens to adults with disabilities dance the night away at these FUN themed events. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up/tear down, serving food and drinks, and helping with crafts, games or other activities.

****Volunteers must be at least 18 years old***

FOOT LOCKER INVITATIONAL RACE



LOCATION: MCALPINE CREEK PARK

- 8711 Monroe Road, Charlotte, 28212

DATE OF EVENT: Saturday, NOVEMBER 25

TIME OF EVENT: 8:00am – 3:00pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 6:00AM TO 4:00PM

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: **10**

Annual FOOT LOCKER cross-country race attracts more than 4,000 runners! Volunteers will be assisting with event setup, performing tasks as needed to assist Athletic Trainers and/or park guests, and breaking down after the event. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and weather-appropriate clothing - this race is a Rain-or-Shine event! Volunteers will receive a "Foot Locker 2017" race hat, and a pizza lunch!

****Volunteers must be at least 18 years old to help with this event***

WRIGHT THE VISION – PICK UP A SPOON & SERVE

LOCATION: NAOMI DRENAN REC CENTER/GRAYSON SKATE PARK

- 750 Beal Street, Charlotte, 28211

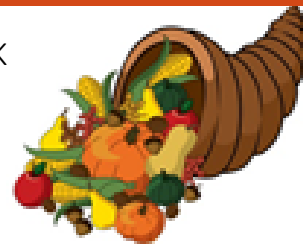


DATE OF EVENT: Saturday, November 18

TIME OF EVENT: 12:00 - 3:00PM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 11:00am - 4:00PM

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 5 - 10



Wright the Vision is a FREE Thanksgiving dinner event for all ages. We'll need plenty of Volunteers to help with food preparation, setup, serving food, helping with activities for children and breaking down after the event. Please wear clean and presentable attire (T-shirt and jeans are fine!). ***You must be at least 18 years old to volunteer independently at this event! If you are under 18 you must be accompanied by an adult sponsor.**



WINTER WONDERLAND CRAFT SHOW

LOCATION: NORTH MECKLENBURG SENIOR CENTER

- 102 Gilead Rd, Huntersville, NC 28078

DATE OF EVENT: **Saturday, December 2nd**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 1:30PM TO 9:30PM

TIME OF EVENT: 6:00PM – 9:00PM

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: **6 to 10**



Winter is already in the air... and the North Meck Senior Center will be holding a craft fair in conjunction with "Huntersville Christmas"! Volunteers are needed to help with welcoming and guiding patrons, keeping restrooms stocked, and making and serving hot cocoa. Please wear a blue top and jeans, and come ready for Winter Fun! ****Teens are welcome to Volunteer at this event!***

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT: DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES



The **Division of Nature Preserves and Natural Resources** is responsible for the protection and conservation of Mecklenburg County's parks designated as Nature Preserves.

Nature Preserves protect the county's biological resources and natural areas, while providing opportunities for environmental education, nature-based programs, and outdoor recreation.

Our staff offer more than 5,000 programs annually, perform natural resource management on over 7,600 acres, maintain more than 30 miles of nature trails, and operate 3 nature centers and a public campground.

OUR MISSION:

Established in 1993, the Division of Nature Preserves and Natural Resources' **mission** is to protect the region's biodiversity and natural heritage for its inherent value and for the benefit of future generations by promoting open space preservation, conserving natural communities, and fostering awareness and stewardship through environmental education and outdoor recreation.

Our vision is for natural communities to exist within Mecklenburg County in perpetuity and for these interconnected high-quality natural areas to benefit and be valued by all citizens.

CONTACT US!

For more information on volunteering for any of our programs or projects, please contact:

Lori Saylor at 980-314-1045
Lori.Saylor@MeckNC.gov

Karen Howard at 980-314-1046
Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov

Janet Whitley at 980-314-1047
Janet.Whitley@MeckNC.gov



PLEASE NOTE: Volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 21 years old.

**Volunteers working in the Therapeutic Recreation (TR) Section must be at least 18 years old.*

Volunteer Services Program Mission Statement

1. To assist Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department staff in providing services needed to offer quality recreation and leisure services to the community by:
 - Supporting direct services provided by salaried department staff.
 - Supplementing administrative, clerical, maintenance and other internal support service functions.
2. To provide the Citizens of Mecklenburg County opportunities for Citizen Involvement and to increase their awareness of the Department's Responsibilities, Services and Results.